

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PC 1/IB2004/002654

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61K9/20 A61K31/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, CHEM ABS Data, EMBASE, BIOSIS

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,Y	EP 0 965 339 A (AJINOMOTO KK) 22 December 1999 (1999-12-22) the whole document paragraphs '0002!', '0005!', '0006!', '0015!', '0020!', '0022!', '0028!', '0032!', '0034!'; claims 1,3,4,7,8,11,12; table 1	1-31
X,Y	EP 1 258 249 A (AJINOMOTO KK) 20 November 2002 (2002-11-20) the whole document examples 7,10,20	1-31
X,Y	US 2003/036479 A1 (AYLWARD PETER T ET AL) 20 February 2003 (2003-02-20) the whole document paragraphs '0027!', '0028!', '0037!', '0039!'; claims 6-8	1-31
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

G document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

30 December 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

11/01/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,Y	US 6 559 188 B1 (ALLISON MALCOLM ET AL) 6 May 2003 (2003-05-06) cited in the application the whole document column 26, line 24 - column 27, line 55 claim 1; examples 1,4,8	1-31
P,X, Y	WO 03/076393 A (NOVARTIS PHARMA GMBH ; NOVARTIS AG (CH); PARKER DAVID JOHN (US); SUTTO) 18 September 2003 (2003-09-18) example 9	1-31
X,Y	XU WEI, YIN LI-FANG: "Preparation and quality investigation of nateglinide dispersible tablets" ACADEMIC JOURNAL OF GUANGDONG COLLEGE OF PHARMACY, vol. 19, no. 1, March 2003 (2003-03), pages 3-6, XP001204563 the whole document abstract	1-31
X,Y	HE XIAO-RONG, HU XIN, YAN XIAO-YAN: "dissolution study of tablets of nateglinide" CHIN HOSP PHARM J, vol. 23, no. 2, February 2003 (2003-02), page 82-84, XP001204565 the whole document abstract	1-31

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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

Although claims 29-31 are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.
2. ☒ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.1

Although claims 29-31 are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.

Continuation of Box II.1

Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by therapy

Continuation of Box II.2

The wording "water-soluble filler" in present claims 1, 22 and 29 relates to an extremely large number of possible compounds and has thus an obscure and unspecific meaning. For example povidone or carboxymethylcellulose calcium or HPMC or dextrin are known as binders and/or disintegrants, but can also be used as a water-soluble filler. Support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT is to be found, however, for only a very small proportion of the compounds claimed. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the claims which appear to be supported and disclosed, namely those parts relating to the compounds of claims 3-4.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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			EP 0965339 A1	22-12-1999
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US 6559188	B1	06-05-2003	US 2003162816 A1	28-08-2003
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			WO 03076393 A1	18-09-2003
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